IV.—MOTION UNDER RULE 41 (1) OF THE COUNCIL RULES *RE* STRIKE OF EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT STANLEY HOSPITAL AT RAYAPURAM.

* SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Mr. Chairman, under rule 41 (1) of the Madras Legislative Council Rules and with the permission of the Hon. Chairman, I invite the attention of the Hon. the Minister for Health to a matter of urgent public importance, viz., the strike of the staff working in the Government Stanley Hospital at Rayapuram staged on the 18th instant, to the great inconvenience of the public. I request the Government to order an immediate investigation into the causes of this strike. As a member of the Hospital Advisory Committee, I have received varied reports about this occurrence. I request the Hon. Minister to take necessary steps to meet the situation and also to tell us what has been done to allay the public discontent in the matter and to set right matters. It should be interesting to know whether previous notice of the strike was received by the Government and what precautionary steps were taken by them. While I agree that discipline should be maintained, the Government should, I believe, enquire into the matter and do their best to have a contented staff. 2-40 p.m.

* THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU: Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is reported that the hospital workers, that is, the last grade servants of the Government Stanley Hospital, Madras, went on a token strike for two hours from 7-00 a.m. to 9-00 a.m. on 18th December 1956. It is reported that excepting a few workers who agreed and told the Resident Medical Officer that they were going for duty, all others struck work on that date. The Dean contacted the Commissioner, Corporation of Madras, to spare the services of a few persons from the Corporation and by the time the employees of the Corporation arrived, the demonstrators resumed duty at 9-00 a.m. The Dean stated that the work of the hospital was carried on as usual with the available number of persons on duty and with the services of persons who were in the waiting list for regular appointment. The Dean has called for individual explanation from those who struck work and has promised to send a further report to the Director of Medical Services. It is believed that the strike move was forced upon the workers by one Sri V. Samuel, man nursing orderly to secure his re-posting to the Stanley Hospital from which he had been transferred to another hospital. In connection with the representation on the subject made by the Madras Hospital Workers' Union, the attention of the President of the Union was invited to the Government order regarding interference by the Union in individual matters and he was informed that the Union should not raise individual cases of grievances. It was further stated that the transfer of Sri V. Samuel, man nursing orderly from the Government Stanley Hospital to the Government Ophthalmic Hospital was made on administrative grounds and that his request for transfer to the Stanley Hospital could not be complied with. The Director of Medical Services has been asked to submit the report on the action taken by the Dean against the persons who struck work. So, I am awaiting a full report.